

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 currently remain in the application. Claims 4-6 and 10-16 have been canceled, and claims 1 and 7 are herein amended.

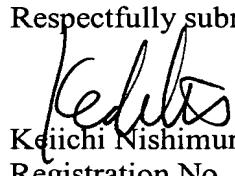
Claims 1-3, 7-9 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Izumi in view of Japanese Patent Publication 2000-241315 (referred to by the Examiner as "Hiroyuki"). In Paragraph 4 of the Official Letter, however, the Examiner stated that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claim 16 was presented as dependent from 7, claim 7 was amended instead to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 16. It is therefore believed that claim 7 is now allowable and that claims 8 and 9, dependent now from amended claim 7 will also be now allowable.

Claim 1 was also amended herein by incorporating the limitations in claim 16. This additional limitation is believed to make claim 1 allowable, and the Examiner is requested to so agree.

If claim 1 is now allowable, claims 2 and 3, dependent therefrom, should also be deemed allowable. Claims 15 and 16 are herein canceled.

It is therefore believed that the instant Amendment is completely responsive to the Office Action and hence that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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